GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5247
ANSWERED ON:05.04.2017
Trains Running Late due to Fog
Vasava Shri Parbhubhai Nagarbhai

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether trains run very late during the months from November to January;

(b) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to tackle the problem of fog so that the trains service may improve;

(c) whether the functioning of trains in Northern and Eastern Railways regularly face obstacles due to which the trains run behind their schedule; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.
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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5247 BY SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 05.04.2017 REGARDING TRAINS RUNNING LATE DUE TO FOG

(a) No, Madam. Approximately 70% of Mail/express trains over Indian Railways run to time during the months from November to January. Normally, some of the trains traversing through Northern and Eastern parts of the country may get delayed during the months from November to January almost every year due to reduced visibility owing to dense fog. Delay to trains during the said period, mainly depends on the period of fog and its severity. In the last financial year (2016-17), fog commenced from 2nd November 2016 and continued upto 3rd week of February 2017 whereas in the previous year (2015-16), fog had commenced from 5th November 2015 and lasted upto 8th January 2016.
(b) For Smooth and Safe movement of trains in fog, the following action has been taken:-
(i) Smooth and Safe running in fog is ensured by modifying the automatic signaling to increase separation distance between trains.
(ii) The specifications of Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) under field trials incorporate cab signaling to provide adequate visibility to loco pilots.
(iii) Fog safe devices with audio indication about location of signal are being provided in locos in phased manner.
(iv) 'Trinetra' technology for improved visibility during foggy weather conditions is also under development.
(c) & (d) Punctuality performance of Eastern and Northern Railways during the last financial year (1 April 2016 to 28 March 2017) was 91% and 73% respectively. Punctuality performance of Northern Railway is mainly affected by adverse weather conditions (fog during November-February period) and other factors like heavy road traffic at level crossing gates across the Indian Railways network; multi faceted law and order problem, including public agitations and bandh calls in left wing extremism affected areas, miscreant activities such as theft of Railway assets (over head equipment wires, signaling cables and other equipment); mid-section run over cases involving cattles and humans due to no-fencing of Railway tracks and Capacity constraints etc.
Indian Railways has initiated various measures to improve punctuality such as prioritization of preventive maintenance of assets to minimize asset failures, capacity enhancement projects by construction of additional loop lines at stations, doubling, construction of third line corridors, automatic signaling, construction of low height subway to replace level crossings, Rail under Bridges and Rail Over Bridges, etc. In addition, zonal Railways have also been advised to have better co-ordination with Civil and Police authorities of States to deal with situations arising out of law and order problems.
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